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SOURCE Minju Choson

INSPECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCORES GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
FOR NEGLECTING INSPECTION WORK IN NORTH KOREA

Summary: Won Tong-kun, vice-chairman of the People's Inspection Committee, scored government agencies for the "perfunctory" inspections. He cited several cases of cursory inspections which failed to reveal that state policy was not being carried out properly.

Won Tong-kun, vice-chairman of the People's Inspection Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, criticized the manner in which government agencies make inspections to see whether or not their lower echelon offices are carrying out their functions in conformity with the state policies. Won stressed the importance of inspection work for (1) the full implementation of state policies, and (2) the purpose of exposing bureaucrats, squanderers, and the self-interested elements in the government agencies.

Won cited the following examples of what he called perfunctory performance of inspection work:

1. The Government Purchasing Bureau misinterpreted the government's policy on fertilizer trading [Government purchase of farm crops in exchange for fertilizers] and traded unknown quantities of fertilizers with well-to-do farmers which was contrary to the state policy.
2. The Bureau of Labor Supply in the Ministry of Heavy Industry waited for 32 days before carrying out Cabinet Decision No 157 which directed that a physical inventory be made of goods on hand. Moreover, it neglected to inspect the actual taking of the inventory after it had finally transmitted the order to its subordinate offices. Consequently, it failed to detect a stock of goods, worth several million won, that was missing from the central warehouse.

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3. Officials of the Fisheries Bureau, including the deputy bureau director, failed to reorganize the operations of the fishing industry on a wartime basis as a result of having transmitted wrong instructions to lower echelon offices. The officials also failed to detect the habits which prevailed in the lower offices of pilfering, hoarding, and wasting raw materials and the state-issued scarce goods. In one instance, the lower offices squandered 78 tons of oil, over 50,000 meters of cotton fabrics, and other items supplied by the government, and permitted over 80 fishing nets worth about 2 million won to rot. The bureau was also responsible for the fishermen missing the fishing season, and the resulting failure to achieve the 50-million-won fish production quota.

4. The Ministry of Labor failed to improve its administration of the program to assist war veterans and their dependents. For example, some of the dependents eligible for state allowances have been denied that privilege. Some factories have been reluctant to hire or have been discharging war veterans for no justifiable reason. The ministry failed to uncover these practices for an unduly long period because of the way it handled the inspection work.

5. The Bureau of Electricity neglected to assign trained personnel for inspection work. For example, the bureau installed an important electric facility, and assigned inexperienced inspectors to supervise the work. As a result, the installation site was selected unwisely, and equipment had to be shifted twice before it was finally installed at the correct site.

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